

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

(1) Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 9, and ending on page 4, line 28, to read:

An example of such technique is disclosed in "Modeling and Efficient Decoding of Large Vocabulary Conversational Speech", Michael Finke, Jürgen Fritsch, Detlef Koll, Alex Waibel, Eurospeech 1999 Budapest. In such document the recognition process, in particular the acoustic model evaluation, is sped up by a dynamic frame skipping technique. The frame skipping technique based on the idea of re-evaluating acoustic models only provided the acoustic vector changed significantly from a time t to a time $t+1$. A threshold on the Euclidean distance is defined to trigger re-evaluation of the acoustics. To avoid skipping too many consecutive frames only one skip is allowed at a time, i.e. after skipping one frame the next one must be evaluated. Such method, based on the cepstrum distance between input parameters, is not accurate, as the distribution of the acoustic parameters is a "multimode" distribution, even in the same acoustic class. As a consequence, frames having a high cepstrum distance can actually belong to the same acoustic class. Moreover such method does not allow to skip more [[then]] than one frame at a time.

(2) Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 4, and ending on page 5, line 9, to read:

The Applicant observes that the accuracy of a recognition process can be maintained at high levels, even if more [[then]] than one consecutive input ~~frames are~~ frame is skipped in those regions where the signal is supposed to be stationary, provided that the distance between non-consecutive frames is measured with sufficient precision.

(3) Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 27, and ending on page 10, line 29, to read:

If the phonetic variability V is lower ~~[[then]]~~ than 15% the threshold is set to 4.0, while it is set to 1.0 when the phonetic variability V is comprised between 80% and 100%.

(4) Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 15, and ending on page 12, line 23, to read:

2.1 When the buffer is not full the system is in a synchronous phase of lookahead buffer filling and contemporaneous releasing of likelihoods already calculated in a previous calculation phase. At every step of this phase a single frame is acquired from the front-end and buffered, releasing a pre-calculated ~~likelihood~~ likelihood. When the buffer is again full the calculation of the likelihoods can start, according to point 2.2.